

FIRST VICTORY WON FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES---CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS MAY NOW BE SOCIALIST PARTY DUES PAYING MEMBERS

AFTER six months of agitation the first big victory won in the big fight to free the hundreds of thousands of United States Civil Service employees from political slavery. John A. McIlhenny, president of the United States Civil Service Commission, speaking for the Commission has made a ruling that government employees may be dues paying members of the Socialist Party. The American Socialist Party, informed of the cases of hundreds of workers in the postal service who have quit the party fearing they would otherwise lose their jobs under anti-political rulings of the commission. The American Socialist invites all the civil service workers in the employ of the federal government to join the Socialist Party and fight for the complete emancipation of these and all other workers from the oppression of the capitalist political and industrial system.

NOTHING added to nothing gives the total of what the old parties accomplished for the workers at the session of congress just adjourned.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

SIX-PAGE issue of The American Socialist next week. Official and routine business on two-page insert. Four pages of good propaganda for your municipal campaign. Rush in your order now for a big haul to distribute in your town.

VOL. I. No. 35

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1915

50c per year \$1 per year outside United States; 25c for 10 weeks in Clubs of 4 or more except in Chicago.

WAR AGAINST WAR!

CONGRESS has adjourned. It has accomplished nothing for the working class. War and unemployment have gripped the people of the nation and the democratic administration has been silent.

The record of the Wilson administration has been two years of failure. Hardly more than 18 months remain to burn this into the brain of the nation before the presidential and congressional elections of November, 1916.

WE HAVE PLANNED TO START THE 1916 CAMPAIGN NOW. WE WANT TO REACH ALL THE WORKERS OF THE NATION WITH SOCIALIST LITERATURE IN THE BIGGEST SOCIALIST LITERATURE CAMPAIGN EVER CONDUCTED IN THIS NATION.

We know that the present industrial depression has depleted the working class pocket of its pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. That is why we are going to sell Socialist literature at unheard-of prices.

When the European war broke out our slogan was "Starve the War and Feed America."

We issued a leaflet by that name of which nearly a million and a half copies were distributed.

Now again a crisis confronts us. Big business is selling food, arms and ammunition to the warring nations. Big business wants to FEED THE WAR AND STARVE AMERICA. This is our answer to Big business.

WE ARE GOING TO FLOOD THIS NATION WITH THE "STARVE THE WAR--FEED AMERICA" PROCLAMATION.

We are going to let you have this leaflet at 10 cents per thousand, f. o. b. Chicago, when ordered lots of 5,000 or more. Lots of less than 5,000 are at the rate of 40 cents a thousand, postage prepaid.

All the nations of the world are now talking about starving the war. The United States is especially interested. Feeding the war means starving America. But this leaflet not only demands an embargo on the shipment of food to the warring nations of Europe. It declares that:

"THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD AT ONCE SEIZE THE STORES OF FOOD SUPPLIES, THE SOURCES OF CREDIT, THE RAILROADS, AND ALL THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION AND USE THEM TO BREAK THE GRIP OF THE TRUSTS AND SPECULATORS."

That is moving fast along the road to the Socialist cooperative commonwealth. You can do your part now by turning to the order blank appearing in the big appeal to "WAKE UP!" on page four and sending in your order now. When you have distributed this leaflet as your big effort for March then get ready for the April distribution, the details of which will be announced in the first April issue of The American Socialist.

Headquarter's Day

March 21 has been designated by the National Executive Committee as Headquarters Day. On this day the Locals throughout the country should make one determined effort to make a showing for the headquarters.

Some weeks ago special stamps were sent out, and the returns on these stamps are coming in steadily. More than 8,000 have already been sent in, which is a start in the right direction. Now we can stimulate interest in the plan by sending in stamps on the day, all money received up to that time. It would be encouraging to be able to report \$1,000 received on the day above set, and I believe it can be done.

March 21 was selected as headquarters day because many locals hold meetings at that particular time in celebration of the Commune. That glorious manifestation of the working-class will be remembered and will be celebrated until the great revolution is accomplished.

While we are celebrating the

Commune, a collection can be taken up to build the temple of the Revolution. The central organization of the party should be housed in an office that should be built by the contributions, even though small, of every member.

Let us prove our loyalty by helping in this worthy cause. All receipts on this account are placed in a separate account and will be used for the purpose of headquarters only.

J. Edward Kildow, Socialist candidate for mayor at Elkins, West Va., polled 241 votes at the election, this being more than one-third of the total vote. This means complete victory next time.

Socialists in the Wisconsin legislature defeated the attempt of the merchants' associations of the state to reduce from \$60 to \$40 a month the amount of a wage workers earnings not collectable for debt.

Socialists at Naples, Italy, have declared a general strike to obtain a reduction in the price of bread from 10 cents to 7 cents.

WILL YOU CARRY YOUR CITY FOR SOCIALISM?

IT is a foregone conclusion that it will be impossible for you to "CARRY YOUR CITY FOR SOCIALISM" unless you order a big bundle of that great municipal edition of The American Socialist, dated March 26, No. 124.

Capitalism has turned our cities into sinkholes of vice and corruption. The slum is next door to the boulevard.

The Socialists are trying to make the cities fit places to live. Socialists want cities without slums and without poverty and suffering. That is part of the big fight of The American Socialist.

Even if there is no campaign on in your city this spring, this "CARRY YOUR CITY FOR SOCIALISM" edition of The American Socialist makes good propaganda right now. Plant the seed now for future victories.

It is too late to arrange for a special local edition of The American Socialist for your city, as mentioned in previous issues of The American Socialist. But you can get a big bundle of the regular edition. Here is the order blank:

American Socialist Bundle Order Blank	
American Socialist, 603 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.	
For the enclosed \$..... send me..... copies of The American Socialist, No..... I want to help The American Socialist in its campaign to carry more cities for socialism.	
BUNDLE RATES.	Name
Bundle Rates One Year to One Address—4 copies, \$1.00; 8 copies, \$2.00; 16 copies, \$3.50; 25 copies, \$5.00; 50 copies, \$10.00; 100 copies, \$20.00.	Street
Bundle Rates of Any Issue—1,000 \$5.00; 500 \$2.50; 250 \$1.25; 100 \$1.00.	City
	State

FREEDOM FOR THE NATION'S POLITICAL SLAVES

FIGHT NOW TO WIPE OUT ALL UNFAIR RULES

After hundreds of United States civil service employees have given up their membership in the Socialist Party, fearing that if they did not do so they would lose their jobs under the anti-political proclamation of the civil service commission, a ruling has been finally secured from the commission declaring that government employees may be dues paying Socialist Party members.

This is the first big victory in the campaign to secure political justice for the government employees who are now gagged and intimidated by the democratic administration under Wilson, as they were previously oppressed by the republican administrations of Taft and Roosevelt.

The next big step will be to prevent the persecution and discharge of civil service employees who happen to take active part in the work of the Socialist movement, men and women who are the candidates of the Socialist Party in campaigns, or hold official positions within the party organization. The American Socialist has shown repeated cases where Socialists have been discriminated against and old party politicians favored under the civil service rules.

The history of the campaign of The American Socialist to emancipate the political slaves of the United States government is as follows:

History of Campaign:

Oct. 24, 1914.—Showed how the anti-political rulings of the United States civil service commission, in the midst of the congressional campaign, was crushing political activity on the part of the civil service employees, and practically forcing hundreds of thousands into apolitical slavery.

Oct. 31.—Showed how Raymond Lawlor, Socialist, mail carrier, at Menomonee, Wis., was threatened with loss of his job because he made a labor day address urging united political and industrial action on the part of the workers. Pointed out that municipal civil service employees were threatened with the same fate that was being meted out to federal civil service employees.

Nov. 7.—Exposed ruling of U. S. civil service commission that civil service employees must not act as precinct officers on election day.

Nov. 14.—Exposed brazen attempt of civil service commission to oust Socialist postmaster in western state, who also happened to be a Socialist Party county secretary and state committeeman.

Dec. 5.—The American Socialist forwards plan to oust Socialist legislators in 15 states to abolish political slavery of the government employees.

Dec. 12.—Shows how the civil service workers at the Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Calif., are facing dismissal for attending street meetings called by Socialists and trade unions.

Dec. 18.—California Socialist state legislators plan war on civil service commission's anti-political rulings.

Jan. 16, 1915.—Shows how democratic is given preference over Socialist in civil service examinations at Dexter, Kans.

Jan. 26.—Socialists in Montana legislature instructed by state parliamentary committee to fight for civil service workers.

Feb. 20.—Shows how John H. Miller, Socialist, postal clerk in Wichita, Kans., post office, loses job because he acted as chairman of Socialist meeting and a member of Socialist platform committee.

The civil service employees, notably the railway mail clerks, and the postal clerks, have made heretofore attempts to organize into labor unions. This is also true of the letter carriers. In this they have been fought by the old party officials in the postal department. In spite of this they have been able to build up strong organizations and The American Socialist pledges them its support in their efforts to win political and industrial emancipation from the system that is now trying to keep them in subjection.

The First Victory

IN ORDER to get a ruling from the United States civil service commission on the question of whether an employee of the government could also be a dues paying member of the Socialist Party, Walter Lanfersiek, Socialist Party executive secretary, wrote to the commission, explaining the method of organization of the party.

The letter received in reply, which is published in full, makes it clear that employees in the civil service may be members of the Socialist Party, and cannot be discharged or discriminated against because of such membership.

The letter is signed by John A. McIlhenny, president of the commission, and is as follows:

"This Commission is in receipt of your letter of February 5, 1915, asking whether an employee in the civil service may be a dues-paying member of a political party.

"In reply your attention is invited to the inclosed circular of this Commission relating to political assessments and political activity and especially to sections 44 to 56 thereof. The provisions of the criminal code quoted in the sections mentioned prohibit the solicitation or receipt of political contributions by a Government officer or employee from any other Government officer or employee, the solicitation or receipt of political contributions in Federal buildings by any person, whether or not a Government officer or employee; discrimination against an officer or employee for giving or withholding, or neglecting to make any political contribution; and the payment of a political contribution by one officer or employee to another officer or employee.

"There is nothing in the civil service law, rules or regulations to prohibit a Government employee from making a voluntary contribution for any political purpose, provided that such contribution is not made to a person who is in the service of the United States and is not made in a Federal building.

"By direction of the Commission:

"Very respectfully,"

"JOHN A. McILHENNY,

"President."

Lone Socialist In Kansas Legislature Wins Big Victory

By GEORGE W. KLEINHEGE
State Secretary, Socialist Party of Kansas

After passing the Kansas House of Representatives by a vote of 46 to six, the act to compel all alien voters in Crawford county to register at the county seat, was reconsidered in the House upon motion by Representative Coffin of Morris county at the suggestion of the lone Socialist Representative Brewer.

Brewer was the only real opponent of the bill. His colleague from Crawford county, Gibson, republican, and the republican member from the adjoining county, Chertow, both very much interested in its passage for political purposes, engaged Brewer in animated conversation at the back of the hall while the bill was read and jammed into hall roll call subcommittee.

It is rumored about the State House that this was framed up by Senator Porter, father of the bill in order to keep Brewer from exposing the real object of the scheme behind the bill.

It should be remembered that Senator Porter is the gentleman(?) from Crawford county, Kansas, who stole his seat two years ago from the regularly elected senator, Fred W. Stanton, who is a socialist. Porter has known from that time that never again could he hope to come to the senate unless he could succeed in disfranchising hundreds of minor voters in Crawford county and thus one can readily understand his eagerness in securing the passage of this unjust and unfair bill.

Representative Brewer led in the fight for reconsideration, being the only member who spoke in its favor. Gibson, republican, of Crawford county, Wagoner, republican, and Harley, democrat, both of Cherokee county, Lamb of Montgomery and Burton of Labette, spoke against reconsideration. To reconsider a vote takes a two-thirds majority. After the debate the question was put and the motion to reconsider was carried. A roll call followed, the

"ELECT" DROPPED; NOW IT IS CONGRESSMAN LONDON.

At noon, Thursday, March 4, Meyer London, Socialist, dropped the "elect" and instead of being Socialist Congressman-elect London, he is now Socialist member, congressman London. That was the hour at which the old congress went out of existence. But the congressmen elected last fall, among them London, will not really go to work until December, unless President Wilson calls a special session of congress, which does not seem likely at this time.

result being 50 for the measure and 27 against. This was 13 short of a constitutional majority and thus the bill was defeated.

Most Spectacular Fight.

This was, perhaps, the most spectacular fight seen in the Kansas House for years. Old members who had never before had such tremendous odds to overcome. One lone Socialist arrayed against the cunning, oratory and the power of political prestige of a horde of the most able representatives from both the republican and democratic sides of the House; and this after the bill had once been passed by a vote of eighty-six to six.

The measure was a direct slap at the alien Socialist voters in Crawford county and would have ruined the extraordinary citizenship strength in that section of Kansas.

In view of the extreme prejudice against socialism in the Kansas legislature the reconsideration and the final defeat of the bill, under the extraordinary circumstances, is certainly a splendid tribute to Representative Brewer, both as to his power on the floor and his personality, and popularity among members of the House.

Last Democratic Battle.

Senator Porter, who after the triumphant passage of the House Bill had it substituted for his corresponding Senate Bill No. 320, has managed to get his bill resurrected at the last moment and is now, in company with his fellow conspirators in the House making a desperate effort to have the law passed even at this late date. The next battle will be a zonal one as Brewer now has on his side practically every fair and honest member in the House.

The Socialists have applied for a permit to parade May Day, May 1, in Baltimore, Md. Last year they were refused a permit. They are not a bit discouraged, however.

Help clean up that party debt! Send in a dollar for four sub-cards.

LOOK FOR THE MESSAGE IN RED!

THIS week 6,000 RED MESSAGES left the office of your paper in Chicago. These 6,000 messages in red are now on their way to the 6,000 secretaries of the 6,000 Socialist Party local organizations scattered everywhere over the nation.

This is a vital message from your paper to you. When you go to the next meeting of your Socialist local remember to ask the secretary about it. Get this message before your local and see that your local falls into line with the 5,999 other locals in the nation.

Your paper wants 6,000 spirited replies from 6,000 Socialist locals to its 6,000 messages in red. You belong to one of those 6,000 Socialist locals.

The story told by the message in red that was sent to your local is as follows:

"You have no doubt read the inspiring report of the condition of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST in the issue of February 6.

"For the first time in our history we have a National party owned paper that is self-sustaining.

"THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST HAS MORE THAN PAID EXPENSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS. Its circulation

has grown from 22,847 on July 18th, 1914, to 50,468 on February 6th, 1915.

"We believe that the management of the paper has merited your support, and we ask you to help us in our present undertaking to raise enough money to practically wipe out the party debt and at the same time increase the circulation of the paper another 20,000.

"We do not ask you for a donation. We ask you to buy four forty week sub-cards. These will cost you \$1.00.

"There is not a local in the United States that cannot appropriate that amount from its treasury. If you cannot, you can no doubt collect a dollar among the comrades at your meeting. You can sell the sub-cards and get your money back.

"If every local in the United States will do that, the party debt will go glimmering and the circulation of the American Socialist will soar in a way to put new hope and courage into the hearts of the party workers who have so valiantly stood by the paper."

Look for this RED MESSAGE with a volunteer sub-blank attached. To reply to the message in red is the biggest work before the next meeting of your local.

SOCIALIST STATE SECRETARIES TO THE FRONT

THE State Secretaries of the Socialist Party have responded nobly, recently to our appeal to wipe out the party debt and boost THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

The State Secretaries,--better perhaps than anyone else are in a position to know the value of a strong party paper. A STRONG PARTY PAPER MEANS A SOLID PARTY MEMBERSHIP, a membership that can be easily reached and be made to respond whenever something of importance confronts the party.

The State Secretaries also know the importance of a National Office free from debt which can come to the aid of a state when the state organization faces a problem too big for it to handle.

The State Secretaries have therefore sent us many cheering words and it is to be hoped that the locals and members of each state respond in the same whole-hearted manner in which their officials responded.

R. T. TILLER, State Secretary of North Carolina: "Here is my dollar for four sub-cards. I hope that every one will join in this plan to increase the circulation of The American Socialist to 100,000 and put the party out of debt. Then I am in favor of raising money to buy a national home and locate same near the center of population as possible. It would be a good idea to buy several hundred acres of land to build our home on, then we could take up one thing after another in a co-operative way, thus help reduce the cost of living and show the comrades that it is a benefit to belong to the party in more ways than just voting."

THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, State Secretary of California: "Your plan to at once double the subscription to The American Socialist is admirable. Count us in on the deal. The paper is indispensable. It brings us into touch with the general movement and brings true in constructive party work. Success and more success."

FRED HOGAN, State Secretary of Arkansas: "We hope that the comrades will be in your hands very soon. More than this number can easily spare the \$1 and I can think of no way in which it could do better service to the cause."

ALICE E. EDDY, State Secretary of Arizona: "The power of co-operation has, in some degree, been demonstrated by the success of The American Socialist. Let us prove that power further by helping our paper wipe out the party debt."

I. F. STEWART, State Secretary of Idaho: "I trust every party official will realize the importance of paying The American Socialist in a hundred thousand dollars and homes each week, and if each worker does his part, we can easily lift the \$5,000 debt in a short time have the paper in a position to help meet the other expenses of the national organization."

JOHN P. BURKE, State Secretary of New Hampshire: "I have always favored a party owned press. Now, when we have an official paper, I shall do my part to make it a favor for the movement. I desire to urge the Socialists everywhere to rally to the support of The American Socialist. Let us also take hold and clear the party debt say good-bye to apathy and cynicism and begin now for a glorious advance for Socialism."

I. S. McFILLER, State Secretary of Iowa: "The fact that the debt is no larger than it is, is most encouraging. I shall call special attention to the plan in my next news letter to the membership and urge the comrades through the state to contribute their share."

A. J. McDONALD, State Secretary of New Mexico: "Here is my dollar for four sub-cards in the move to raise the party debt. Why do I send it? First because debt hampers all our activities; practically throttles the party. Second, because we need OUR PAPER. The American Socialist, more than any other single agency for party building and propaganda. With it, all our efforts should be coordinated more effectively than without it. We cannot make any mistake by putting our first and best assets behind OUR PAPER."

ETHEL J. SHAFER, State Secretary of Nebraska: "I think The American Socialist should be in the hands of the party regularly and shall do my utmost to make the comrades in Nebraska realize the importance of subscribing to it."

FRED E. IRISH, State Secretary of Maine: "The American Socialist Volunteer sub-plan commends it-

self to me very highly and I hasten to enroll myself. Enclosed find check for \$1 in payment for four sub-cards and I wish every member of the party here in Maine would follow my example."

J. RAPHAELSON, State Secretary of Kentucky: "Although I still have sub-cards on hand, I wish to be one of the 6,000 American Socialist boosters. I am anxious to see The American Socialist enlarged and its usefulness extended. Five thousand dollars will go a long way in making The American Socialist bigger, brighter and more powerful for the benefit of the working class. Every Socialist who still has a job should join hands with me in sending a dollar for four sub-cards."

ROBERT B. RINGLER, State Secretary of Pennsylvania: "I trust that you will meet the co-operation of all prominent comrades and that the plan will be crowned with success."

WILCO C. JONES, State Secretary of New Jersey: "I fully approve of your plan of wiping out the \$5,000 debt. Here is my dollar."

J. W. RICHMAN, District Secretary of the District of Columbia: "Enclosed find check for \$1 in payment for four sub-cards. Just a few words about OUR PAPER: It is a hammer for party members who are interested in the organization and its routine work. I have heard considerable comment here, ever, and agree in the main with it, that the OFFICIAL MATTER carried on page 3, has a tendency to detract from its value as a propaganda medium. Official business, should properly be put in the hands of the party, as well as a duty and a privilege to work for the things in our movement that are a 'MUST'."

THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, State Secretary of West Virginia: "I favored and voted for party owned press last May. I had plenty of misgivings then. I have none now. The American Socialist has exceeded my fondest hopes. It is growing better all the time. It's something to keep interested alive in the movement. It is a pleasure as well as a duty and a privilege to work for the things in our movement that are a 'MUST'."

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BIG SLASH IN LEAFLET PRICES FOR YOUR MARCH LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION "STARVE THE WAR--FEED AMERICA" LEAFLETS, 20c a thousand, f. o. b., Chicago, when ordered in lots of 5,000 or more; lots of less than 5,000 are at the rate of 40 cents a thousand, postage prepaid. Orders less than 1,000 will not be accepted.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

CARL D. THOMPSON, Director.

Purpose: To collect, classify and make available for the membership of the Socialist Party such data and information on economic, political and social problems.

Method: To assist selected officials with such information as they may see the disclosure of their duties.

Address all communications to **Socialist Party Information Department**, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago.

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TELETYPE

Alberta Government Tele writes us as follows:

"Relative to the statement appeared in some of the American papers regarding increase in telephone rates in the City of Montreal: You will of course understand that any comparison is without comparing the class

one of its citizens, Joseph Burns, said current can be manufactured for 6 mills per k. w. h., sold at 2c per k. w. h., and pay more than 6¢ on a liberal capitalization on the part of the plant. Under proper management it could be sold for manufacturing purposes, when the light load is not carried, for a cent and a quarter and still yield a profit.

This he believes could be accomplished if the city had a monopoly of the electric light business in Lincoln. The civic spirit in Lincoln would not waken until the city had given away several street car franchises, some of which also had night-privilege clauses in them. As a consequence there are now

under which it is given, is not misleading, but unfair.

Under the government purchase plan the Citizens Electric and Telephone Company, then in the neighborhood of 1,000 subscribers, the initial business rate \$35, and initial residence rate \$25, the exchange limits for both phones being one-half mile in residence, plus one mile, and commercial, between these limits.

"Under the present rates," he says, "we have over 10,000 subscribers. The initial business rate is \$43, and initial residence rate \$35, and exchange limits being a two-thirds mile for both business and residence. The old exchange limits have been replaced by modern material equipment, via, the St.

large electric light plants in Lincoln, one municipal and two private, and as it will be years before the standard will be reached, it is probable that it will be some time before the extremely low rates are made possible.

ver by the government on April 1
908. Is this true?"
A. The Deputy Minister of the
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